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NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME RESIDENTS CLAIM NEW BATTLE CRY!

Boulder City, Nevada (Friday, October 14, 2005) – There is a buzz in the air and a battle cry – Let the games begin! – in the hallways at the Nevada State Veterans Home, as residents prepare for the Veterans Olympics being held next week. This third annual event provides opportunities for the Home's residents to participate in friendly competition against one another, while being publicly recognized for their efforts.

The events kick-off on Wednesday, October 19, 2005, at the Nevada State Veterans Home, with a bowling and poker tournament, followed by a basketball tournament on Thursday. Friday, October 21, 2005, the games move to Veterans Memorial Park, where the veterans will partner with the VFW Post 36 and the American Legion Post 31, with assistance from the Boulder City Boy Scouts Troop 293, for a fishing tournament.

The public is encouraged to come out to Veterans Memorial Park, on Saturday, October 22, 2005, beginning at 8:00 a.m., to cheer on America's heroes as they compete in field events. This final day of the Veterans Olympics will begin with opening ceremonies, including a parade of athletes, presentation of colors, comments from Colonel Carl M. Alley, Commander of the 99th Medical Group from Nellis Air Force Base, and the lighting of the torch. The field events will include a golf putt, Frisbee toss, wheelchair race, and Velcro ball toss.

Following the field events, there will be an awards ceremony, complete with medals, and the Victory BBQ, hosted by the American Legion Post 31 and sponsored by the Nevada State Elks Association. The day's events will conclude with a flyover and are sure to offer fun for all.

The Veterans Olympics, an event that has consistently grown over the years, is extremely important in the eyes of the Home's residents. The Home's staff attests to the positive impact the event has on the residents. Angela Smith, Volunteer Coordinator for the Home, said, "It contributes to keeping their minds strong and it boosts their self-esteem. Overall, it improves their quality of life."

On any given day at the Home, you can find a participant from a previous year's Veterans Olympics proudly displaying their medal around their neck. The Home's Administrator, Gary Bermeosolo, said, "This is a major event for these guys and gals. It helps make life worth living. They take this very seriously. Some of them even begin preparing for the Olympics weeks in advance."

The event is made possible by a collaboration of many. It is anticipated that 20-percent of the Home's residents will participate in the Olympics. Support for the event, in the form of time and tangibles, comes from a variety of sources, including Nellis Air Force Base personnel and community based volunteers and organizations. Gary Bermeosolo added, "We are so fortunate to live in a community that provides so much support for our residents."

Gary summed it up by saying, "I hope the public will come out on Saturday. It feels really good to watch them compete and cheer them on – to support America's heroes. They have given so much to all of us. Let the games begin!"

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The Nevada State Veterans Home is a 180-bed skilled nursing facility, serving veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents. The Home, located in Boulder City, Nevada, is dedicated to "Caring for America's Heroes." For information on the Veterans Olympics, the Nevada State Veterans Home, or the Nevada Office of Veterans Services, please call (702) 332-6864, or visit the website at www.veterans.nv.gov.